(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has already submitted details of suitable land and all other information required by Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which the University will be set up in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Central University of Gujarat has already been established by the Central Universities Act, 2009. The Government of Gujarat is to provide, free of cost, about 500 acres of land for this University. The location of the University will, therefore, depend on the various sites as may be offered by the State Government, and would be notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette. The State Government has offered a few sites in Sabarkantha district. This Site Selection Committee constituted by the Central Government for finalization of the location of the university is expected to visit these shortly.

Participation of women members in Panchayat meeting

†1921. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of elected women members, their husbands take part in the meeting of district Panchayats; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system and empowerment of women?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) 'Local Government' is a State subject and meetings under the Panchayati Raj System are convened and organized by all the three tiers of PRIs according to the respective State Panchayati Raj Act of each State/UT Government. No information relating to the participation by the husbands of elected women members in the meetings of district Panchayats is available at central level although anecdotal references have occasionally appeared in the print media in this regard. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has requested the State/UTs to ensure that such instances do not take place and some states have issued administrative instructions to curb such practices.

In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments for empowerment and capacity building of elected women representatives (EWRs), the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing the "Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakit Abhiyan (PMEYSA)" targeted at elected women and youth representatives, which provides financial support to State/UT Governments for supporting the formation of Associations of EWRs and organizing training/sensitization programmes for such EWRs and EYRs who have been elected more than once, so that they are able to provide enlightened leadership in their Panchayats.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Through the Backward Regions Grant Fund scheme and Gram Swaraj Yojana, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj also provides funds to the states for capacity building of staff and elected representatives of the Panchayats.

Amendment in Panchayati Raj rules

†1922. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend the Panchayati Raj rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to enhance the rights of Panchayati Raj office bearers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (e) Local Government, *i.e.* Panchayati Raj is a States subject. States covered under Part-IX of the Constitution are empowered to make legislations and rules thereunder regarding Panchayati Raj, and also regarding Panchayati Raj office bearers. Government of India has no direct role in the matter.

Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission in Kerala

1923. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several crores of rupees that are to be reimbursed to the Competent Authority of Kerala for successfully implementing the schemes under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission with 50 per cent Central assistance is pending from the year 2002-03;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this pending amount will be reimbursed affirmatively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) to (e) No sir. Each State, including Kerala, is allocated funds at the beginning of each financial year from the budgetary provision made for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), now renamed as National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Department of Drinking Water Supply. Funds are then released to each State in two instalments during the year. The first instalment is released unconditional, unless the State has not taken its 2nd instalment for the previous year. At the time of release of second instalment, the funds are released after fulfilling certain

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.